

NOVEMBER 2025. Joanna welcomed members and a visitor called Jane who is a neighbour of Iris's. We sang Jerusalem with Joanna confirming that, as usual, it was up to the individual whether to join in or not. Apologies received from Susan, Ruth and Shirley. The October minutes and the Risk Assessment were on the table for viewing. In Matters Arising Joanna thanked members that last month's Produce & Craft Stall along with the Accessory Sale made £65 for funds. She then handed over to Amanda for a report on the County ACM. Amanda confirmed that County is making ends meet financially although membership had declined, there are now 67 Institutes in the County. The virtual Institute was on hold due to no-one willing to take up an officer role. The speaker from the Natural History Museum was very good. The speaker from the county archives less so but made some interesting points. The main speaker, Iestyn Edwards, a much older man than in his promotional photo spoke with pathos and humour about his troop entertaining days. Overall a good meeting. Correspondence: Debbie told members that the 2026 NFWI Annual Meeting would be 4th June, a virtual one again and London Colney is our link Institute. Joanna reminded members to use the Suggestion & Feedback box. In County News she mentioned the Christmas Carol party 2nd December to which some members have already bought tickets but more need to be sold for the event to go ahead. She then asked members to get their diaries out and we proceeded with the Sub Committees: The Book Club are meeting on 3rd Dec at Elizabeths. The Garden Club's first meeting will be on 27th Nov 2pm at Pam Crofts for which Lesley had produced a sign up sheet and a list of proposals/ideas (by the end of our meeting 11 members had signed up for this new club!) Outings; the Christmas Lights Minibus trip Friday 19th Dec now has a full bus and will start collecting passengers from around 6.30pm. Sue R told members about the Town Twinning Christmas party & buffet on Saturday 6th Dec, £20 a ticket. Under Future Plans, Joanna told members that the Chain Reaction Film Night at Amanda's to see the film Ghosted on Wed 26th Nov £5 is now full but Amanda will do another showing on 19th Nov for which there is a sign up sheet tonight. The Christmas Meal Out on Thursday 4th Dec 6.45pm at The Three Horseshoes. Including their 10% service charge £35.15 for 2 courses and £38.45 for 3 courses with food choices and payment tonight. Chain Reaction Mulled Wine & Monica Mince Pies will be on Tuesday 16th Dec at 7.30pm at Pam Croft's, sign up sheet tonight. Next meeting will be on 11th December our Christmas Party with entertainment from The Barn-ettes singers and our usual Bring and Share Buffet. Joanna explained our party plate system of 6 or so items, sweet or savoury and reminded members to bring their own crockery, glass, drink, cup etc. Dressing up and Christmas jumpers are optional. Pam Crofts will give the VOT. The competition is a snowman. Vilma and Ann will help Veronica serve the tea and coffee. In AOB Joanna asked members to support the school Christmas Fair on 29th November and asked if anyone could help run a PTA stall. She thanked members for bringing in items for the Hamper Raffle and reminded them that Father Christmas had a present for all of us! Joanna presented a bouquet and card to Pat Pauley who will be moving to Scarborough shortly. Members will miss her. Pat says she hopes to find a WI as good as ours up there! With Caroline O'Neal we then enjoyed a free workshop decorating Christmas Cards with all sorts of pretty embellishments and even some sewing! Gerry gave the VOT and a bottle of Prosecco to Caroline on our behalf. The raffle was drawn. The competition (standards were high!) was won by Sarah with her pretty flower embroidery. Joanna reminded members of Amanda's Film Nights, the Christmas Meal out and to bring Party Plate etc to our next meeting on 11th December. We closed with the National Anthem.